The Lions' Pride

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In Honor of Our Faculty Writers

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

Photo By Nicholas Santos

The first Faculty Works Display Case took about 2-3 months to complete and features at least ten different faculty writers.

Did you know that some of Saint Leo University's faculty members publish literary works and share them with the University? Did you also know that there is a display case showcasing these shared works in the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library?

This display case, proudly labeled "Works by Faculty," began as a project during the summer of 2015 and was completed by late fall of the same year. The case was built with the purpose of expanding the already impressive collection of faculty publications and honoring those who have had their works published.

Three key people were involved in the creation of the display case (in addition to faculty members who contributed their works): the late University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Sister Dorothy Neuhofer; Reference and Instructional Outreach Librarian, Carol Ann Moon; and Graduate Assistant for the University Archives and Special Collections, Kenneth Kelly. Moon and Kelly, who continued to work on the case following Sister Dorothy's passing, were responsible for the current design of the case.

"This first display case shows some of the books we have collected of the current University Campus faculty members," said Moon. "By putting together a display case on the second floor called 'Faculty Works,' the library is hoping that we will raise awareness that we collect faculty book publications."

According to Moon, faculty members who wished to share their books with the University would typically be asked to offer two print copies: one that the University may lend, and another to keep in the library's official Special Collections archive, a collection of books specifically published by faculty. Although the library has been collecting publications from faculty members previously, this display case marks the first time in the history of the Daniel A. Canon Memorial Library that the books have been displayed together for the public to see. The library is excited for this opportunity to share the works of the University's faculty members and is seeking the attention of faculty with published works.

"I invite faculty to search for their names in the Library catalog and to see if we have their books. Then, I invite them to donate two copies of their books to us, so we can fill in our gaps, if their names and publications do not pop up in the search results. This is especially an invitation to new faculty, who have just joined us. We want your book," said Moon.

A second display case, currently in progress, will specifically focus on the published works of faculty who have taught at Saint Leo University in the past as an effort to honor their memory and highlight their research. As an example, Sister Dorothy's published work "In the Benedictine Tradition: The Origins and Early Development of Two College Libraries," is on display. This display case is planned to be completed by early February.

"Scholarship is all about a conversation that begins in the past, continues in the present, and lasts well into the future," said Moon.

With the continued dedication of the library staff, Saint Leo University's faculty will be remembered by the works that immortalized them.

"It may surprise you to find out that your faculty have their books on our Library shelves. Come over and take a look. See the evidence of the scholarship that your faculty have accomplished in their fields," said Moon. "You will, perhaps, come to understand more about the faculty and their research interests. Perhaps, you will be inspired one day to research a topic, to write your own book, and to get your work published. It is a very rewarding experience."

Photo By Nicholas Santos

The Faculty Works Display Case is located on the second floor of the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library.

Editorial

Choosing The Right Path

By Samantha Corcoran
Contributing Writer

Choosing to go to college or not is one of the most important decisions anyone will ever have to make in life. Whatever the choice is will follow them in all of their life decisions and opportunities.

In high school, teens can only think about graduating and finally going to college to get away and move on with their lives. Teens nowadays are being told that they cannot get a good paying job unless they attend college for at least two years.

Time and time again young adults around the ages of 16-20 are being directed away from their dreams and towards something more "practical". They are often pushed into majors with higher success rates and they are expected to complete at least some type of college degree. Parents are not doing this just because they want to. Parents and guardians truly believe that they are doing what is best for these young adults. It is evident at the age of 16 up to the age of 20 it is inherently difficult to decide what you would like to do for the rest of your life.

Young adults have the world in their hands after they graduate. The world is a place of opportunity and wonder. Now, once people start influencing them and their decisions, the world slowly loses the bright wonder it once had. What's left is the dull and the basic. What's left is what's known and safe to parents, guardians and others who influence life decisions.

The world should appear as an open book just waiting to be written in for young individuals. They should feel free to write their own stories. They should listen to themselves and only the people who support them in their endeavors.

Students should do what they love because this will change the whole course of their lives. Tests and questionnaires won't help determine what one truly enjoys. An individual must look within and decide what they really desire, what they may want to do and if the individual is able to dedicate themselves fully to that decision.

Society, each and every day, attempts to control people's decisions, actions, and words. This decision cannot be made by anyone else but the individual alone. They know their skills, their brain, their body, and best of all what they truly want and are really capable of.

What society has failed to recognize is the rising need for skilled workers. Much of the skilled labor force is made up of baby boomers. As the baby boomers reach retirement age they leave their jobs behind. Since everyone is being pushed towards college young adults become overqualified and unskilled for these positions which must be filled. With all of these openings it is time to reconsider whether people should go to college or not.

If one feels that college will not personally benefit him/her, trade school may be a better option. On the other hand, if money seems to be the only issue then there are many opportunities for help in this area. There are scholarships, loans and more that can help in regards to paying for tuition, meal plans, books and housing. Looking into different school options which may not be one's first choice school could help to save hundreds, if not thousands of dollars.

Some students may benefit more from starting out in a skilled labor position before eventually completing some type of upper level schooling such as: an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctorate. Additionally, while in a skilled labor position some individuals may choose to attend trade school where they may earn certification in their specific area of expertise.

Often, some people find that they could have been more successful working skilled labor positions instead of attending college due to the amount of time and money that it takes to earn a collegiate degree. Many see this as time they could have been spending to make money. It truly is all in the eye of the beholder.

Overall, if someone is a hands on person who feels that college may not be right for them and that skilled work is more his/her thing, then they shouldn't go to college. They should follow their dreams and do what they think is right for them as an individual.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

While maybe not the most glamorous professions, many skilled labor jobs are very rewarding and pay well.

Check us out online at www.pride-online.net

"Dystopia" Review

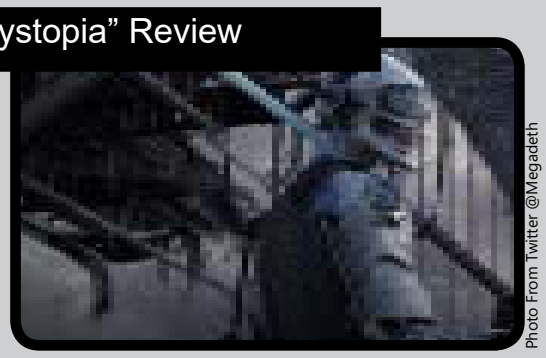

Photo From Twitter @Megadeth

Megadeth's latest album, "Dystopia," is a much-needed departure from their disappointing 2013 album "Super Collider." "Dystopia" is not on par with the band's early albums, but it still features fantastic guitar riffs and politically charged lyrics.

Cellphone Reception

Picture By Craig Craves

Having trouble getting cell reception at the University? Check out this article to see if any cell providers or phone brands work better than others on this rural campus.

Chimera

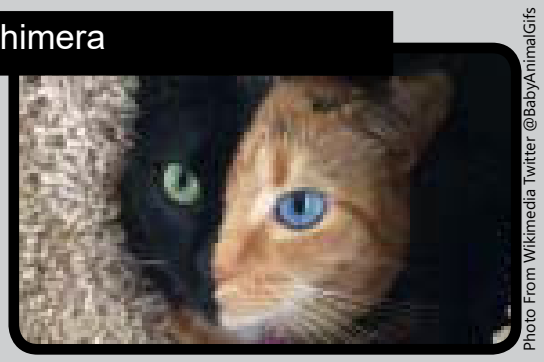

Photo From Wikimedia Twitter @BabyAnimalGifs

Recent laboratory experimentation has involved the hybridization of stem cells with other animals, leading to Chimeras. Chimeras are animals which represent a combination of two different species' genetic material, and are often extremely unhealthy.

Newsroom

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- Faculty: Include name and rank
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Campus News

Disc Golf Club Adds Diversity to SLU

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

Photo By Niclas Bez
The newest club on campus introduced itself during the Involvement Fair.

The new club, called the Saint Leo Disc Golf Association, started back in Sep. 2015 and is now an officially recognized club on the Saint Leo campus. The members just finished a 9-hole disc golf course on campus that is open for everybody to play. The club plays on a daily basis on the Saint Leo course or on some of the other courses in the Tampa Bay area.

Disc Golf is a game where the player uses a type of 'Frisbee' called a disc.

"The goal is to throw your disc into the basket, which is [known as] the 'goal,' in the fewest number of throws. It is very similar to the concept of golf where you are trying to make it in the hole in the fewest amount of tries," says Zachary Smith, who is the president of the Saint Leo Disc Golf Association.

"The starting point of a hole is called a tee pad, and each hole has a different tee pad. Every hole is a different length and layout. Some holes go left, right, or straight," Smith continues.

Disc Golf is a game that is played in over forty countries. The biggest association is the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) who hosts most of the tournaments, including the national and world championship.

"Disc golf is extremely difficult. No one can pick up a disc and be able to compete with someone who has been playing [professionally]. The discs that you throw are unlike anything else you've ever thrown. A Frisbee would be the most similar, but they do not travel in the same motion as a disc," says Alexander Wimmer, who is the vice president of the club.

"This semester the goal is to have permanent tee pads (hopefully concrete) and have tee signs up to label all the holes," says Zachary Smith. "Following up this semester, the goal for fall of 2016 is to get 9 more holes to complete a full 18 hole course on campus. By doing that, we should be able to hold tournaments and [earn] our campus more recognition as a college campus."

The club will be happy to welcome students that are interested in the club or just want to try learning how to play Disc Golf. The current members have discs and are willing to teach and train their fellow students. To join the club it just takes a $10 membership fee that ensures a spot on the roster for the club and a club t-shirt.

People who want to know more about the new club or want to play a round can contact the president, Zachary Smith, at zachary.smith05@email.saintleo.edu, visit the Twitter page @SLUdiscgolf, text or call 937-207-2557.

Gliding into Danger

By Rebecca Maldonado
Contributing Writer

They're cool, they're stylish, and they're sleek. In recent months hoverboards have quickly become one of the most popular and coolest methods of transportation. However, are they really all that safe?

Hoverboards are best described as self-balancing electric scooters. However, because of the recent increase in skepticism of the board's safety, retailers such as Amazon, Target, and Overstock actually removed the product from their inventories during the holiday season, causing quite a ruckus with consumers.

Reports of fires and other injuries have caused great concern among not only consumers but manufacturers and those in charge of the safety of the general public. According to the Chairman of the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are currently 29 emergency room visits and 11 reports of fires in 10 states logged since the hoverboards entered the market.

Paul Ziobro, writer for the Wall Street Journal, states in his article that "the U.S. Postal service said it would no longer allow hoverboards with lithium batters to by shipped by plane. Out of an abundance of caution the devices will be restricted to ground shipping,"

In her article for New York Times, Katie Rogers says "[o]fficials have banned the troublesome toys from sidewalks and airplanes, and fire marshals across the United States are issuing warnings against them amid stories of fires and explosions."

Some of the more accessible hoverboards carry cheaply produced batteries.

"Lithium-ion batteries are versatile and lightweight enough to be used in a variety of electronics, including laptops and cellphones, but the hazards of packing so much energy into a compact battery has its drawbacks. Poorly designed batters can overheat and are prone to explosion. There is no guarantee that even high-quality batteries won't catch fire, which means it won't be easy for consumers to safeguard against hoverboard fires," says Rogers.

"Confusion in the market is amplified by a range of new companies – with names like PhunkeeDuck, IO Hawk and Jetson – jostling for legitimacy" says Paul Ziobro.

Photo By Matthew Vandenburgh
Despite safety concerns hoverboards are still popluar amongst students.

As of right now, the companies producing the hoverboards which are prone to combustion have not been named, but the Consumer Product Safety Commission is working on investigating these producers.

When it comes to prevention, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is "recommending that consumers don't charge the hoverboards overnight or when they're home, and avoid buying them from places like mall kiosks and online retailers where the product's origin is difficult to track."

Saint Leo University Campus Security and Safety sent out a school wide email on Jan. 27 that issued a ban on the use and possession of hoverboards on campus grounds due to new safey concerns. This ban becomes effective immediately Feb. 8.

National

The CNN Democratic Presidential Town Hall

By Cassidy Whitaker
Political Columnist

Picture From Twitter @CNN

Both Sanders and Clinton performed well in the debate, solidifying their positions as front runners.

On the evening of Jan. 25, 2015, the top three hopefuls for the Democratic nomination in the 2016 presidential race gathered for one last forum before the start of the caucus and primary season of the election: the Iowa Caucus.

CNN hosted the Democratic Town Hall in Des Moines, Iowa to give Iowan voters the chance to hear the presidential candidates one more time before the Iowa Caucus. CNN's Chris Cuomo was the moderator for the evening.

Key points made by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders:

● The opening question regarded Sanders' initial hesitation to even want to run for the White House many months ago and how far him and his campaign have thus come since then. He cited Sanders' initial feeling of uncertainty if there even was an "appetite to discuss the problems between rich and poor" in this country. Sanders was also asked about how surprised he is by the "#FeelTheBern" movement.

● "…our message has resonated much faster, much further than I thought it would. And I think what the American people are perceiving is there is something very wrong in this country when ordinary Americans are working longer hours for lower wages, when we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country on earth, and almost all new income and wealth is going to the top one percent," said Sanders.

● Sanders also cited that our economy is "rigged" and sustained by a corrupt campaign finance system that continues to allow billionaires to fund and in turn elect the candidates of their choice through Super PAC'. He believes that a system like this is not what Americans want, whether they are Democrats *or* Republicans. This issue has been a primary part of his campaign's platform, so it is unsurprising that he opened with discussion of it at a forum in front of hundreds of Iowan voters.

● First question asked by an audience member: what Sanders defines "Democratic Socialism" as. Sanders replied that the term is comprised of many factors such as the concern for economic rights for the entire U.S., social security reform, tackling the problem of the rich continuing to get richer while everyone else gets poorer, and the belief that government should play a role in ensuring that all children are guaranteed a higher education regardless of their income by making tuition free to help students deal with their debt.

● "What Democratic Socialism means to me, in its essence, is that we cannot continue to have a government dominated by the billionaire class and a Congress that continues to work for the interest of the people on top while ignoring working families," said Sanders. The senator remarked that creating a government in America that works for all, not just those on the top, is his goal.

● Cuomo asked Sanders if he wants to bring back the "era of big government." Sanders discussed how he believes that it is time for Wall Street to begin paying its fair share of taxes. He then strategically pivoted to how Iowa has played a "very interesting" role in the fight for free public education throughout history and that the umbrella of free tuition for public education should now expand to college because the world and the importance of a college degree have changed.

● He added that he believes that every child in this country who has the ability and desire to earn a degree should be able to do so regardless of his/her family's income, to which Cuomo interrupted by reminding him that voters don't criticize his goal, but rather how he will achieve his goal. "The era of protecting the middle class and working families is certainly something that I will make happen," said Sanders.

● An audience member asked what specific actions Sanders will take to fight political gridlock in Congress and to garner support for his initiatives. The Senator's response primarily focused on his past record of working across the aisle with his conservative counterparts in the Senate. He then pivoted back to his platform of having Americans demand that Washington fight for everyone, rather than just a handful of wealthy individuals.

● Another question asked what Sanders's reaction to Hillary Clinton's most recent attack ad on him was. He discussed why the argument that former Secretary Clinton is better suited for the presidency simply because of her experience in foreign policy is wrong and then brought up what he believes is the be-all and end-all aspect of her campaign: her vote in favor of the Iraq war many years ago.

● Closing statement: included his commitment to fighting against establishment politics to combat crises that the U.S. faces today such as climate change, inequality, poverty and a corrupt campaign finance system by using, of course, a "political revolution."

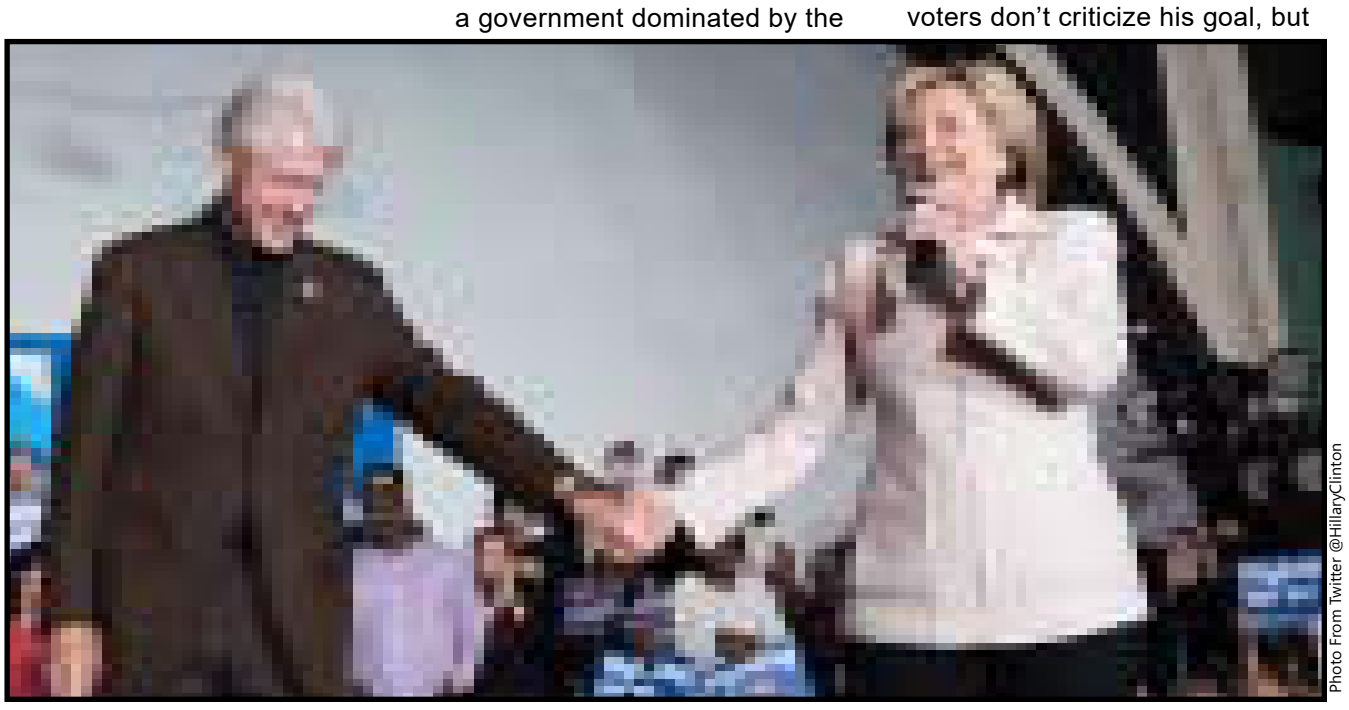
Photo From Twitter @HillaryClinton

Hillary Clinton first proposed universal healthcare in 1993 when she was the First Lady.

Key points made by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton:

● Clinton said that a newcomer to politics [specifically, presidential politics] doesn't handle or understand the things "thrown at them" during a campaign as well as a veteran like she does. She

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added that people continuously try to take her down because of the fact that she has "been on the front lines" of positive change and headway since she was the age of the young voter that asked the question. She reminded him that she has been fighting to give children, women, and people forgotten about a chance to make the most of their lives, and that she's "taken on the status quo time and time again."

● Secretary Clinton noted that, "…you have to have somebody who is a proven, proven fighter. Somebody who has taken them on and won and kept going, and will do that as president. That's why I hope you'll reconsider."

Photo From Twitter @BernieSanders

Bernie Sanders is the only Democrat candidate in this election who has served as a city mayor.

● Next question asked: how voters can know that she will keep the issue of income inequality a top priority as president, citing VP Biden's recent remark that she was a "newcomer" to the issue. Clinton responded by reminding the audience member of her 40-year long record of fighting all forms of inequality in addition to economic inequality, citing specifically racial, sexist, and homophobic inequality.

● She then explained that in her past she's fought for juvenile delinquents' unequal treatment by being held in adult prisons, inequality within the education system, unequal treatment of prisoners unable to acquire a lawyer, and of course, her lifelong battle against women's inequality.

● The next question went to a man who was the current Chairman of the Des Moines Committee on Foreign Relations. He noted that a vast majority of the discussion at the town hall that night had been regarding some form of domestic policy and then discussed the importance of a president's awareness of and familiarity with foreign policy issues, as more than half of a president's time is spent within that area. He asked: with the experience as Secretary of State under her belt, how much of an interventionist she thinks she'll be when faced with future issues.

● Clinton responded with her appreciation of him bringing up the importance of foreign policy and cited President Obama's recent remark that, "…you don't get to the pick the issues you work on when you're president, a lot of them come at you." She then stated that a president has to always be ready and able to switch gears at just a moment's notice and be able to handle every aspect that the job entails.

● She vowed that she would always do her best to use military action only as a last resort and to use diplomacy whenever possible. "…you also should use the enormous capabilities that we have to project our values around the world, our cultural values, our freedoms, our human rights, and respect for the dignity of all people," said the Secretary.

● She then cited examples of times that she did exactly this [using diplomacy rather than military action]: the internationally followed and highly debated process of imposing sanctions on the Iranians to negotiate with them to end their nuclear weapons program which led to the Iran nuclear deal.

● Clinton then took this opportunity in her response to inform the audience that she'd also take the non-intervention approach regarding the situation in Syria. "That's why I say no American ground troops in Syria or Iraq. Special Forces, trainers, yes. Planes to bomb, yes. No ground forces," said Clinton.

● The next question sparked what many have been calling Hillary Clinton's most notable portion of the evening. A woman asked how we can make sure that the U.S. protects the constitutional rights of all types of people without marginalizing any one community, specifically referring to Muslim Americans, since she is a Muslim American in addition to a mother of three children.

● Clinton took this opportunity to voice her concern for the language that the Republican candidates have been using throughout the election that "insults, demeans, denigrates different people," specifically referring to their frontrunner, Donald Trump. She said that she has found it particularly damaging the way that he's spoken of not only Muslims around the world but also American Muslims.

● She stated that the belief that people of a certain religion should not be allowed into this country or that there are no people of the Muslim faith that share American values and to simply dismiss and insult them continuously is not only "shameful and contrary to our values," but that it is dangerous. She added that American Muslims deserve better and that their children should absolutely not be the targets of Islamophobia and threats.

● The next round of questions focused largely on how Clinton will work with Republicans if elected as president. An audience voter asked: what she'll say to Republican voters when she is elected the next President of the United States, to which she responded that she wants to be "the president for everyone." She then discussed how as president, she'll go across the aisle to work to find common ground with her Republican counterparts.

● Cuomo pointed out the fact that although Clinton says that she wants to work with Republicans, she recently listed people and groups she saw as adversaries, one of them being Republicans. She responded that she admits that she *does* see them as adversaries because of her political differences with them, but that does not mean that she would be unwilling to work with them if she were in office. She added that she plans on working as hard as possible to build relationships and to find common ground with them.

This town hall was important for the Democrat candidates because it was the last official showcase of their differing platforms before Iowa voted in the caucuses. The Iowa Caucus is important because it is the first event in the primary season.

The next showcase of the Democratic candidates was in the form of another CNN town hall on February 3. The candidates will now be focusing on campaigning in New Hampshire, as it is the next state to vote in the primary elections.

For the extended version of this article, go to https://prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com/

Check out The Lions' Pride coverage of the Iowa Caucus

Go to https://prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com/

(Left) Photo From Twitter @HillaryClinton (Right) Photo From Twitter @tedcruz

Arts & Entertainment

Negative Gender Roles in Video Games

By Jonah Robertson
Editor-In-Chief

Gender equality is an important issue in the United States, and one that still has a long ways to go. With the increasing popularity of videogames as an entertainment medium, they serve as a platform similar to television and film, one which many people's opinions might be influenced by. Because that is the case, it is quite troubling that there is many games that handle gender equality very poorly, and many go so far as to objectify one gender or the other.

Over-sexualization is a prominent issue in many games. From women with exaggerated bosoms, to men with unrealistic musculature, people are hard-pressed to find games that escape fully from this trend. One particularly bad case of this occurred in recent memory with "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain" which featured a prominent female character, named Quiet, wearing little more than a torn bikini top and tights. While the game itself was generally fantastic, and was one of the better games of 2015, characters designed in such a way are simply unnecessary fan-service, and do nothing to better the game. Quiet could have easily been an interesting character without her exaggerated proportions and unrealistic attire.

As well as objectification, there is also a trend in many games of treating women as inept, or unable to handle themselves. Often the female characters simply sit around waiting for the males to help them, instead of doing things for themselves. All this does is prolong an already unnecessary stereotype about women, and has no place in an industry that is at its core about nothing more than having fun. 2015 horror release "Until Dawn" in particular was quite bad about this. While the player was given control of many different characters, of either gender, the women were almost completely inept, with the exception of Sam, who had a few moments of power. However, the male characters, especially Chris and Mike, all seem more able to handle the horrifying events occurring around them. They show actual physical prowess, as well as crisis aversion skills, things that the female characters never really do.

Of course, there are many games that do not follow this pattern, and have handled the presence of both genders beautifully. However, the fact that there are still prominent, AAA titles such as the ones mentioned above that handle this in such a poor manner is a serious problem, and one that the gaming community should be seriously bothered by. One of the general tenets of gaming is that it is simply for enjoyment, and that everyone should be allowed to enjoy it. The misrepresentation or mistreatment of any person of any gender could prevent people from fully enjoying a game, and that's a true tragedy. "Metal Gear Solid V" and "Until Dawn" were each exceptional games in their own right, and were enormous amounts of fun. However, they failed to give equal treatment to characters of either gender, and it simply detracts from what are otherwise enjoyable games.

Current Events

February 6 - 7 - Farm Fest & Quilt Show @ The Pioneer Florida Museum and Village
February 6 - Thomas Promise and Support the Troops Golf Tournament @ Silverado Golf & Country Club
February 8 - Saint Leo Town Commission
February 11 - Andrea Bocelli @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $17.00
February 13 - World Radio Day
February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 20 - Arenacross @ Amalie Area Tickets from $20.00
February 24 - Jeff Dunham @ Amalie Area Tickets from $43.00
February 26 - 28 - Spectrum Concert; Central High School Theater with the Hernando Symphony Orchestra
February 27 - Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $34.00
April 29 - 98RockFest @ Amalie Arena - Tickets from $29.00

Picture From Twitter @GamesRadar

Even though some of the women in Until Dawn have strong personalities, none of them have any sizeable impact on the events in the game.

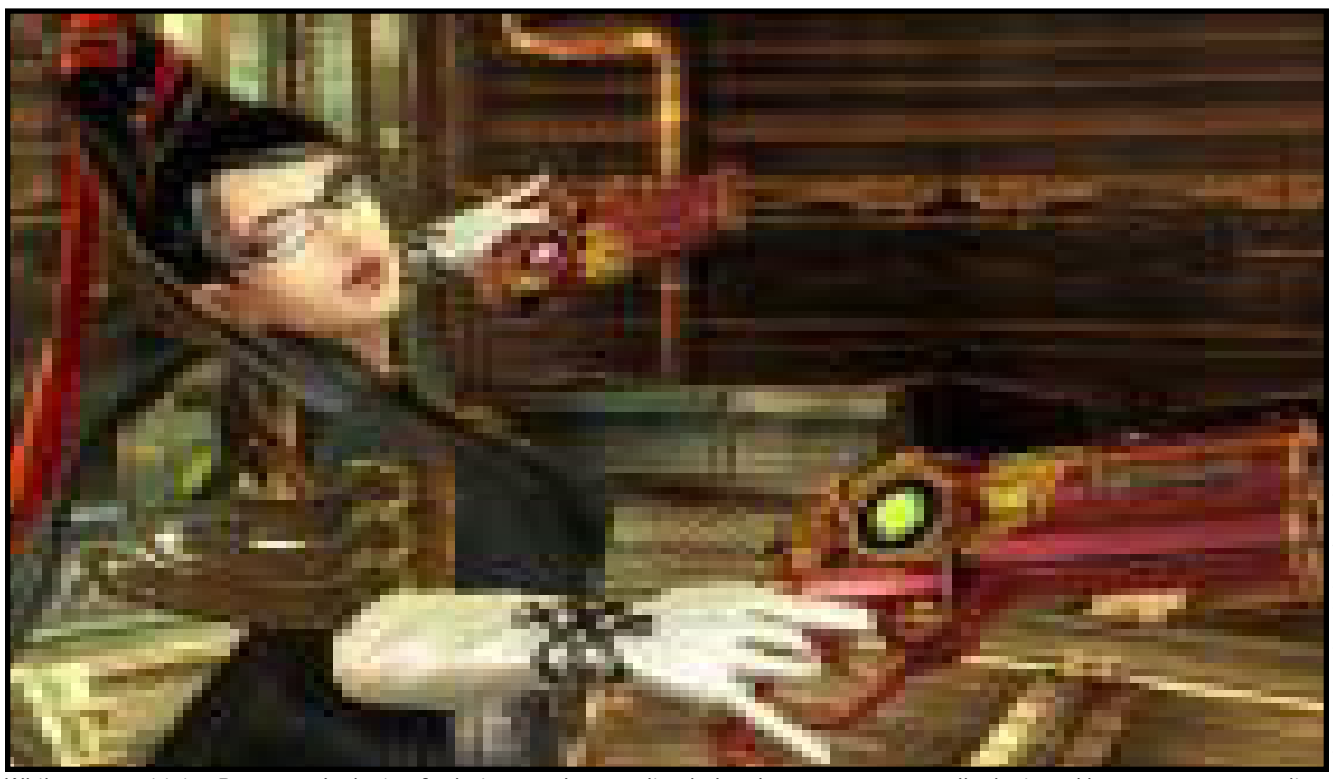
Picture From Twitter @VideoGames

Quiet is a strong character, capable of protecting herself, but her attire is completely ridiculous.

Arts & Entertainment

Positive Gender Roles in Video Games

By Jordan Cardenas
Contributing Writer



Picture From Twitter @NintendoAmerica

While some criticize Bayonetta's design for being overly sexualized, the character was actually designed by a woman, according to Destructoid.

It's impossible to deny that there is still some imbalance in the roles of both males and females in video games, or arguably multiple art mediums in general. However, this doesn't mean that there hasn't been change and improvement brought into the industry, with more options being provided for players of either gender.

As games continue to grow bigger in scale, greater possibilities and choices have been opened to players, some reflecting the increase of female gamers in the community. A number of games in the past lacked customization and gender options, such as the famous series of Pokйmon games, which would not offer the option to play as a female character until the game "Pokйmon Crystal" was released in 2001. The series did not offer full character customization until the games "Pokйmon X" and "Pokйmon Y" were released in 2013.

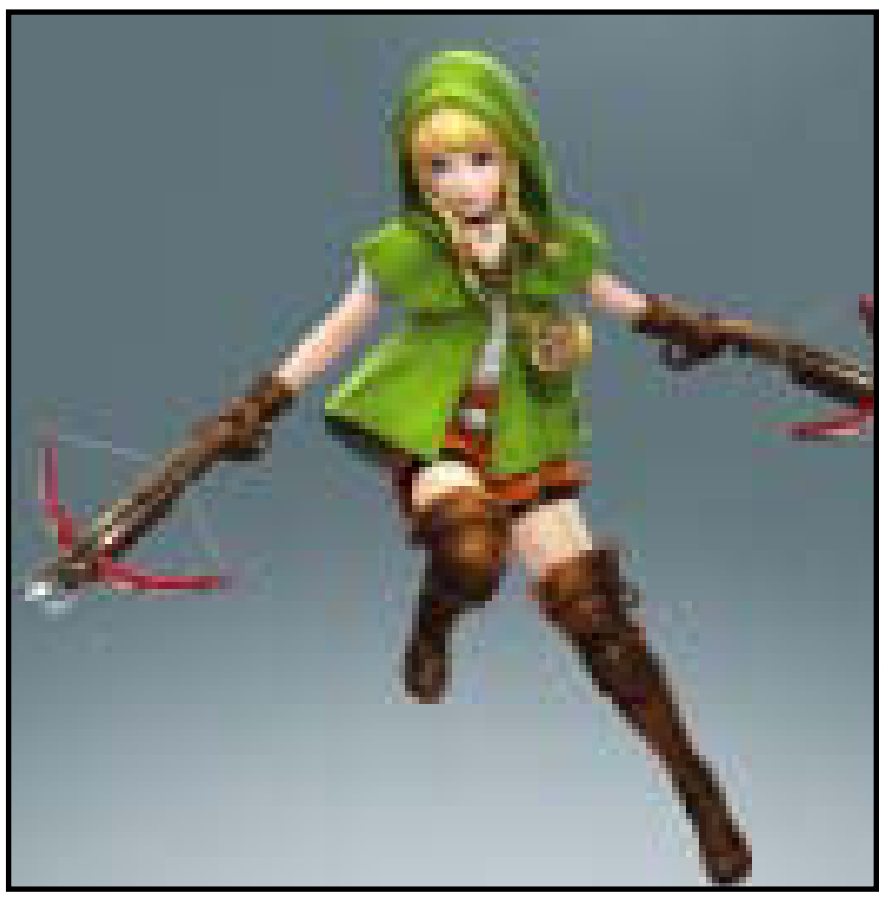
Many modern video games—especially open world action-adventure games and role-playing games such as "Sunset Overdrive," "Fallout 4," "Dragon Age" and recently "Fire Emblem"—have the player take the role of an avatar character. Players are able to choose their character's gender and alter their appearance however they please. These kinds of options have offered gamers much more freedom than before, with male players not having to be forced to play as highly masculine characters, and female players can feel comfortable playing as characters that represent themselves rather than female characters who may be oversexualized and designed with a lot of exposed skin.

But does sexualization automatically tear value away from a character? Not necessarily, as popular video game characters such as Bayonetta from the critically acclaimed action games "Bayonetta" and "Bayonetta 2" have shown. While the female witch protagonist is sexualized a number of times in both games, her provocative behavior is part of her personality and acts more as a part of her own self-empowerment and parody than to be fanservice for male gamers. Bayonetta has received highly positive reception from gamers of both genders.

Additionally, female protagonists have received a lot more respect over the years. While many female protagonists have left a positive impact in the industry's history, such as the bounty hunter Samus Aran of the "Metroid" series as well as Princess Zelda's ambiguous persona Sheik from "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time," others have had a more checkered past. These characters include Lara Croft of the "Tomb Raider" franchise, who is infamous for being overly sexualized while having little character development in earlier games in the franchise. She was finally given greater depth in more recent entries in the series. Furthermore, stronger female protagonists have become more common, such as Lightning from "Final Fantasy XIII," Chell of the "Portal" series and the formerly mentioned Bayonetta.

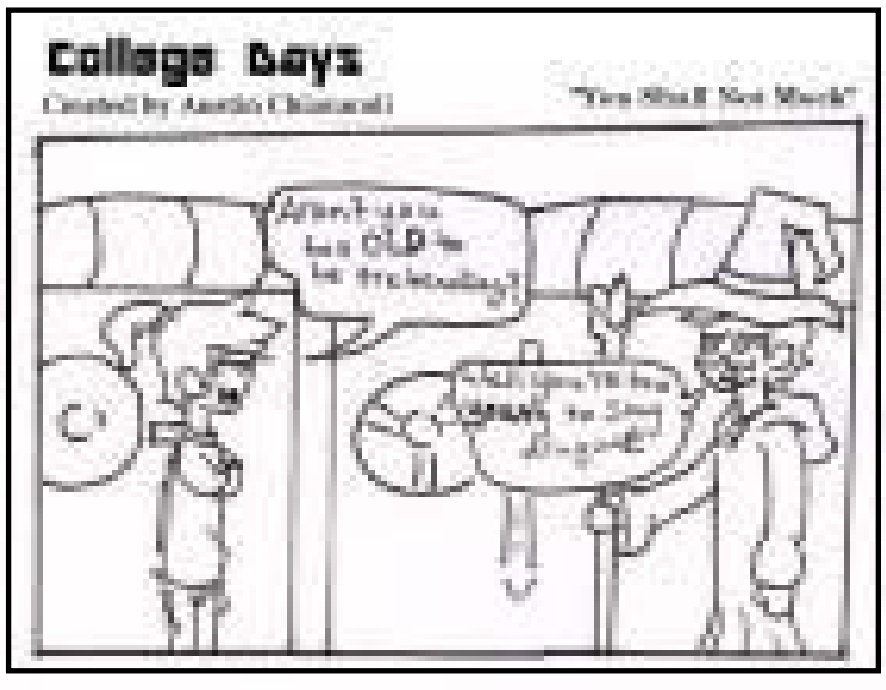
Modern games have also continued pushing towards dual protagonists. One of the last console generation's notable examples is "The Last of Us," which features a middle-aged man named Joel and a young girl named Ellie, both fighting to survive in a post-apocalyptic world. Still, the developers of the game dealt with the undeniable sexism still lingering in the industry, as they were pushed to remove Ellie from the game's front cover under the impression that women being on the cover of video games make them sell less, according to "The Escapist," an online magazine covering video games as well as movies and comics.

Nevertheless, the gradual improvement of gender equality in video games has been a nice development to watch over the years. While there are still problems, both for the objectification of women or even the over-glorifying of macho-men to an uncomforting level, video games have grown to become an inviting and accessible medium for men and women alike.



Picture From Twitter @NintendoAmerica

Linkle is a new character from The Legend of Zelda spin-off game, Hyrule Warriors Legends, being a female version of the famous protagonist Link. After receiving much positive reception, Nintendo producer Eiji Aunoma claims that he will consider her inclusion in future Zelda games, according to IGN.



Sports

A Look Ahead: Previewing the 2016 Baseball

By Matthew Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

The 2016 Saint Leo University Softball team not only begins their season Feb. 5 on the road, but also as the top ranked team in the Sunshine State Conference. Following a 39-12 finish to last season, the team looks to continue its excellence in head coach Erin Kinberger's second season.

One of the keys to last year's success was the dominant pitching, as the team finished second in the nation with an earned run average of 1.23, while now senior Alana Tabel led the country with a 0.94 ERA. Also joining Tabel amongst the leaderboard was freshman sensation Samantha Tyler, who's 1.28 ERA was good enough to place her eleventh in the nation.

"In addition to Tyler and Tabel returning, we recruited a junior college transfer named Stephanie Adkins," said coach Kinberger.

The addition of Adkins is especially important, as the Lion's lost Ashley Ehlers to graduation, a key cog to the pitching staff last year.

"I didn't know that we could find a kid that would work as hard as Ashley, but we got lucky with Stephanie," said coach Kinberger.

These three pitchers give the Lion's a great chance to build upon their accomplishments from last season.

"I think our battery is gonna be one of the best in the conference again. I think that we have a great pitching coach, Maddie Holub, that I brought with me," said coach Kinberger.

Holub, who was last season's Assistant Coach of the Year for Division-II, is likely going to be a hot commodity soon, as other schools will look to fill coaching absences in the upcoming years.

This does not guarantee a change of scenery for Holub, but something that coach Kinberger might have to contend with in a few years.

"I think she (Holub) is awfully loyal to me and definitely to the program at this point. I think she definitely has a bright future, and I would like to keep her as long as I can, but whatever her decision is, I would support it," said coach Kinberger.

While the team performed spectacularly last season, finishing with six All-SSC players, they also lost some big performers to graduation.

"At first, a little concerned with graduating seven seniors from last year, but I think we did a really good job in the recruiting process where we brought in really strong athletes that are gonna come in and fill some of the spots we lost," said coach Kinberger.

Coach Kinberger expects this recruiting class will be able to help the team pick up where they left off.

"I think you'll see a very similar offensive team to last year, and actually a little more power, but a little less speed, so it's a little give and take," said coach Kinberger.

Overall, coach Kinberger does not believe that losing seven seniors to graduation will cause a lot of harm to the program, nor does she want to call this a rebuilding season.

"We've reloaded, and I think we reloaded really strong," said coach Kinberger.

With that mentality, and the returning players that are projecting dominance, this could be an historic season for the softball team.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 2/5/16 - 2/11/16

Softball

Eckerd Tournament

2/5: Vs Chadron St. 4:30 pm
2/5: Vs Shorter 7 pm
2/6: Vs Palm Beach Atl. 1:30 pm
2/7: Vs Ursuline 9 am
2/7: Vs Florida Tech 11:30 am

Baseball

2/10: @ Hawai'i Pacific 11:00pm

M Tennis

2/6: Vs Georgia College 12 pm (@ Valdosta, Ga.)

2/7: @ Valdosta St. 12pm

W Tennis

2/6: Vs Georgia College 12 pm (@ Valdosta, Ga.)

2/7: @ Valdosta St. 12pm

M Golf
@ Lakeland, Fla.

2/8: Matlock Collegiate Classic

2/9: Matlock Collegiate Classic

W Golf
@ St. Augustine, Fla.

2/7:Flagler World Golf Invitational

2/8: Flagler World Golf Invitational

Swimmer's Celebrate Senior Day

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 29 the Saint Leo University Men's and Women's Swim Teams opened their home pool one last time for the 2015-2016 Academic year, to host the University of Tampa Spartans. Prior to the meet the statistics already showed that was going to be a high class meet with the Saint Leo Men ranked tenth and the Spartans ranked third in the nation, according to collegeswimming.com. The Women's team for Tampa was ranked eleventh and the Saint Leo Women's team was ranked twenty-fourth.

Among the spectators were many Saint Leo Alumni and former members of the swim team who came out to cheer on the next generation. One of them is Gabe Keown, an alumni from 2014, and the holder of the school record for the men's team in the 200 and 400 free relay, and who used to hold five more records.

"It is strange being back and not being able to participate. Sitting on the sideline is definitely a different perspective and it makes me appreciate it a lot more," says Keown. "The team has gotten better every single year. The amount of people that are going to the national championship gets bigger every year. Paul has really done some amazing recruiting and the results show his great work. Paul is like an evil genius. He knows what he is doing and the people that are 100 percent committed will see the results. The numbers don't lie."

Many students, parents, faculty and alumni were there to honor the individuals from both the men's and women's team. On the men's site Pawel Trenda, Matheus Assis, and Evan Jacob finished their last meet in the Bowman Center Pool, while of the women Stephanie Martinez, Isabella Bains, and Katie Sanacore raced their final meet of the regular season.

"It is bittersweet to see them leave after four years. I'm proud of all they have accomplished and know they'll be very successful in life and I believe we've done the best we could to foster and facilitate that growth. They have each helped develop Saint Leo Swimming into a nationally ranked program both in and out of the pool," says head coach Paul Mangen.

With six seniors leaving the question comes up, whether they can be replaced. "Yes and no. We built the last two or three recruiting classes around these seniors so I will be doing the same with the team building the next group around the existing members who will be here next year and the years to come. It will be very difficult to find six people that are this versatile this talented and able to immediately impact the way this group was when they came to Saint Leo University. However; because the profile of our program has been raised so much by their efforts and the efforts of their teammates and coaches as well as administrative support, we will be able to attract at a higher level than we did in years past," Mangen says.

One of the seniors that had a big impact on the program is Matheus Assis, a Management & Marketing major from Joro Pessoa, Paraiba, Brazil already held 8 conference titles, 6 All American honors, and multiple school records, before the last championships even started. Assis is already qualified for the national championship starting March 9th in Indianapolis.

"It is bittersweet to leave, I am happy to have accomplished everything I did and it's been a great 4 years," said Assis. "Swimming has changed me in many different ways. It's made me tougher, more determined, and disciplined. I think, just, it's made me a better person in general."

"I'm proud of the direction we have moved in the past 7 years I've been here. We annually produce All-Americans in the Pool, Academic All-Americans in the classroom, have averaged Top 15 Placing at the NCAA National championships over 3 years, have been consistently in the top 10 and even top 5 in National Team GPA, but most importantly we exemplify the mission of this university through our fostering, facilitating, and development of great people that are ready to enter society and be productive," Mangen says.

At the end of the day, all of the Lions performed well and were able to take the win on the women's side with a final score of 151 to 111. On the men's side Tampa showed that they are fully worth being ranked third in the nation beating the Lions with a score of 145 to 116.This was the last meet of the regular season before the Lions head to the Conference Championship meet that will start on Feb. 17 in Orlando, Florida.